

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the title and the specification have been amended.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiners Vargas and Gutierrez to Applicant's representative during the personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the remarks below.

All of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 20, 2004 were not considered because EP 1 273 980 was allegedly not provided. Applicant submits that a copy of that reference was provided as evidenced by the enclosed September 20, 2004 date stamped receipt. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant encloses a copy of that reference. It is requested that the Examiner consider the reference and return a completely initialed Form PTO-1449.

The drawings and title were objected to based on various informalities. By this Amendment, the specification and the title have been amended responsive to the objections. It is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Nagamine et al. (Nagamine), U.S. Patent No. 5,978,626. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Nagamine fails to disclose an image forming apparatus with exposing devices that are each fixed to an image forming apparatus body, as recited in claims 1, 26 and 31. Nagamine's optical heads 40 are instead mounted to the top cover 14 (col. 9, lines 8-9) and not the frame 12 (Fig. 2).

Nagamine also fails to disclose an image forming apparatus, wherein an image holding member, a developing agent holding member and a developing agent storage chamber are overlapped in a direction to attach and detach the processing units, as recited in claim 26.

Nagamine discloses a photosensitive body 36 (image holding member) that is placed to the left (when viewing Fig. 3, for example) of the developing roller 52 and toner hopper 53 (developing agent holding member and developing agent storage member). Accordingly, the photosensitive body 36 is not overlapped with the developing roller 52 and toner hopper 53 in a direction to attach and detach the printing assembly 20.

Nagamine also fails to disclose an image forming apparatus, wherein the developing portion and image holding portion can be attached to and detached from the image forming apparatus body in a state where the developing portion and the image holding portion are integrated with each other and the developing portion can be attached to and detached from the image holding portion, as recited in claim 31.

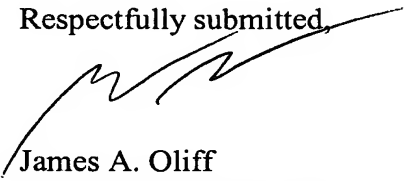
As shown in Nagamine's Fig. 3, the printing assembly 20 includes a photosensitive body 36, a developing roller 52 and a toner hopper 53 that are formed as one integrated unit. Nagamine fails to provide any disclosure with regard to forming a printing assembly 20, wherein the photosensitive body 36 can be attached to and detached from the toner hopper 53 and the developing roller 52.

In view of the foregoing, Nagamine fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1, 26 and 31 as well as the additional features recited in the dependent claims thereof. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

EP 1 273 980
September 20, 2004 date stamped receipt
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: October 28, 2005

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